

WET AND DRY WAR

Public Interest in the Military Affairs of Europe

Has Been Obliterated by Prohibition Fight in England.

PETITIONS ARE POURING IN

Asking the Government to Stop Traffic in Liquor.

Cabinet Has Power to Act in Arbitrary Manner.

London, April 2.—The attention of the British public has today been attracted on the question of abstinence. For the moment it has overshadowed the war. This is Good Friday, and in London there are no afternoon papers but it is doubtful if the biggest headlines chronicling military activity could divert the attention of the people from the all-absorbing topic of the possibility of a "dry" country.

That some drastic measures are contemplated is beyond question, but the public is divided in opinion as to whether the prohibition is to be total, or whether the consumption of alcoholic liquors will be permitted under sharp control.

Several of the London morning papers appeared today with full page advertisements, presenting petitions with the request that the government should move to cut them out and send them to the Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd-George. These petitions read: "I am entirely in favor of the suspension of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors during the war, which I consider imperative for a quick and successful termination of the war. I shall heartily support the government in any such measure."

The petition idea is backed by merchants and business men and other employers of labor, who disclaim any save a war interest in the proposed measure.

The sense of personal liberty is so strong in England that it may defeat total prohibition. But the sense of fair play fights on the side of the extreme measure for the opinion is growing that if employees be deprived of their right to drink, employers must take their place in the same boat. It is believed that the cabinet is in favor of total prohibition which, under the defense of the realm act, has the power to enforce without any further legislation.

WOULDN'T TALK

ROOSEVELT

[Continued from Page One.]

may go before the Republican national convention seemed ill at ease and a trifle nervous.

But down in the hotel lobby it was different.

Charles F. Scott, who had accompanied the senator to Topeka from Kansas City, was singing the praise of the near-Houstonian.

At a service held in congress, he was on my committee and he's a great big, broad gauged man of ability and power—absolutely fearless," urged the former senator, who is a Republican.

"He's the kind of a man Kansas likes."

No more Bull Moose—Charles Scott, And Scott did not hesitate to put a construction on the Roosevelt statement, as conveyed by Victor Murdock.

"It seems to mean that they will be back, that Roosevelt will be a Republican next year, that there will be no Progressive party," said Scott. "They can't run another party without Teddy."

Back in the hotel lobby with the committee, Senator Weeks was taken to the Commercial club, where a special luncheon had been prepared in his honor.

"What do you think of the national administration's foreign policy?" was asked the senator, who had been prepared to leave the hotel lobby.

"I would be glad to talk about that," replied the affable senator. "Some time when I will be in the city or so, when I can preface my remarks and make clear my views."

That was all. Clearly the Massachusetts man was taking no chances at this time. He had nothing to say about the Roosevelt report and his discussion of national affairs he proposed to limit to a carefully worded statement.

His Talk on Business.

But legislation as affecting business—Senator Weeks was full of it. And in discussing business affairs and business conditions, Senator Weeks mentioned the European war, the tariff and state and national legislation—but always applying them to their direct or indirect effect on business. The senator looked with alarm on future business conditions under the present policies.

Talk at Commercial Club.

Nearly 150 people attended the noonday luncheon at the Commercial club. Speaking on business conditions before members of the club, Senator Weeks said in part:

"The disorganization of commerce in Europe, coupled with the high taxes necessarily resulting to pay war debts, will mean an influx of labor into the United States demanding work at any price, and an era of low prices on the continent. Low tariff will result in our own manufacturers being undersold, and the administration will not be able to escape the consequences of its economic policies, which have been aided thus far by unusual conditions abroad."

"The European war, which is used as an excuse for business conditions now prevailing in the United States, has started more looms and furnaces than it has stopped."

"It has made especially good prices for crops and horses. Cotton, of course, has been affected adversely."

"Then what is the trouble with business in the United States? Depression is due to legislation—to too much restriction and too much inspection. One feels that in a short time he will be in the position of France prior to the revolution. For every citizen there was an inspector. A farmer who brought hogs to market found there was a general inspector for swine, a special inspector for sows and another inspector for suckling pigs, with all of whom he had to deal."

Railway Situation.

"By means of the interstate commerce act, the railroads have come to the point where they are literally up against it. It is essential that the railroads of the country that your transportation systems be able to give you good service."

"Because of unwise regulation railroad earnings last year fell off \$130,000,000 as compared with 1912. You might as well expect a man with hardening of the arteries to win a race as the railroads to serve you well unless they are able to finance themselves."

TWO ENGLISHWOMEN

LECTURING IN U. S.

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